AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 11 of the Specification please make the following changes:

Preferably, the antibody contains, at the C-terminus end of the heavy chain, the sequence:

$-(Xaa_1)_m\ C(Xaa_2)_n$

where: C = cysteine residue

Xaa_1 = independently any amino acid with the proviso that it is not I or L or forms a consecutive sequence $X_1\ X_2\ X_3$ V S X_4 (SEQ ID No. 1)

where: X_1 = N, H or L

X_2 = V or Y

X_3 = S or N

X_4 = aliphatic amino acid

Xaa_2 = independently any amino acid, especially Y or A

m = an integer of at least 2

n = an integer of 0 to 5, preferably 1.

Antibodies capable of binding J-chain peptides are also provided, the antibodies comprising at their C-terminal end the sequence:

$-(Xaa_1)_m\ C(Xaa_2)_n$

where: C = cysteine residue

Xaa_1 = independently any amino acid with the proviso that it is not I or L or forms a consecutive sequence $X_1\ X_2\ X_3$ V S X_4 (SEQ ID No. 1)

where: X_1 = N, H or L

X_2 = VorY

X_3 = S orN

X_4 = aliphatic amino acid

Xaa_2 = independently any amino acid, preferably Y or A

m = at least 2

n = 0 to 5, especially 1.

On bottom of page 11 of the Specification please make the following changes:

Preferred synthetic tailpieces (underlined) formed by such sequences include:

(a) SCMVGHEALPMNFTQKTIDRLSGKPACY

On page 15 of the Specification please make the following changes:

Figure 10. The artificial P(A)$_5$CY tail allows for improved antibody secretion.
Tobacco protoplasts were transfected with plasmids encoding k chain, J chain and γ/α, γ/αΔC18 or γ/αΔC18P(A)$_5$CY heavy chains. Cells were pulse labelled for 1 h and chased for the indicated periods of time. Cell homogenates and incubation media were immunoprecipitated with anti IgG antiserum. Proteins were visualised by reducing SDS-PAGE and fluorography. The fluorograms were subjected to densitometry to quantify the amount of secreted heavy chains. Secreted heavy chains are expressed as percentage of total intracellular heavy chains immunoselected at 0 h chase. Note that at 8 hours, recovery of P(A)$_5$CY in the medium is ~~2.3-fold~~ 2.3-fold higher than recovery of IgA/G.

On page 24 of the Specification please make the following changes:

Figures 9 and 10 show that using the ~~-PAAAAACY~~ -PAAAAACY tailpiece as the C-terminus end of the heavy chain, whilst the efficiency of ennamer assembly of -PAAAAACY is comparable to the wild-type IgA/G, recovery of -PAAAAACY in the medium was 2.3-fold higher than wild-type IgA/G.